to twice the number of vacancies plus four. However, in case of SCs/STs, where adequate number of candidates of these categories are not available in the normal zone, the zone of consideration may be extended to five times the number of vacancies. Only those officials who fulfil the eligibility canditions as per relevant Recruitment Rules are included in the zone of consideration/ extended zone of consideration. However, if adequate number of eligible candidates possessing the qualifying service etc. for promotion to the higher grade in any service/ grade are not available, the administrative Ministries/ Departments are free to seek relaxation in the prescribed conditions, if permissible in terms of the Recruitment Rules.

Compliance of Minimum prescribed Reservation for SC and ST

2376. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the present position of various States and Union Territories with regard to the compliance of minimum prescribed reservation for SC and ST, so far as Groups A, B, C and D services are concerned; and

(b) what are the impediments of non-compliance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSION AND PENSIONERS' WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) and (b) Instruc- tions regarding reservation for SCs and STs in respect of Group A, B, C and D posts in the Central Services in States/Union Territories are implemented by the administrative Ministries/Departments concerned.

India Ranked Corrupt by Transparency International

2377. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH:
SHRI ABANI ROY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item titled "Here's where all those brides go" which appeared in the Hindustan Times dated 23rd January, 2000;

(b) whether the Transparency International ranks India 72nd in a list of 99 worst corrupt countries and says low public sector salaries are the prime corruption followed by immunity from prosecution in a country like India;

(c) if so, what are the plans of Government to remove corruption at all levels; and

(d) by when it would start giving good result?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSION AND PENSIONERS' WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. No Such report has been received in this Ministry from Transparency Internatonal India — a private non- governmental organisation. Therefore, the contents of the report and the basis on which the declaration has been made and the analysis arrived at are not within the knowledge of the Government. It will, however, not be correct to say that the low salaries are the prime cause of corruption in India particulary after the implementation of the Vth Central Pay Commission's recommendations. There is also no immunity to a public servant from prosecution for the offences under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 committed by him.

(c) and (d) The Government, however, is fully alive to the need to provide clean administration and to eradicate the malady of corruption at all levels of public services. The drive against corruption in Public services to check mal-practices in administration is a continuing process. The policies formulated in this regard are modified from time to time in order to make them more effective and responsive to the changing environment. The Head of each Ministry/ Department of the Government of India and its organisations is responsible for ensuring probity and integrity in the respective organisation. All the Anti Corruption Agencies of the Government viz. Internal Vigilance set up in the Ministries/Departments, the Central Bureau of Investigation, a premier investigating agency of the Central Government and the Central Vigilance Commission are making all out efforts to curb corruption from public life. The Government has recently taken die following initiatives for eradication of corruption:—

1. The Central Bureau of Investigation launched special drives recently to detect cases of disproportionate assets, to organise traps to apprehend public servants while demanding and accepting illegal gratification and conduct surprise check at sensitive places.
2. The Central Vigilance Commission Bill has been introduced in the Lok Sabha on 20.12.1999. The Bill stands referred to the Joint

Committee of both the Houses of Parliament on 21.12.1999 for consideration and its recommendations.

3. Lok Pal Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 3.8.1998 to set up the institution of Lok Pal to look into the allegations of corruption against high public functionaries. The Bill, however, lapsed on the dissolution of the 12th Lok Sabha on 26.4.1999. Steps are being taken to re-introduce the Lok Pal Bill.

4. The Government set up a Working Group on "Right to Information and Transparency' in January, 1997 which submitted its report to the Government on 21st May, 1997. The recommendation made by the Working Group was examined comprehensively and a draft Bill prepared for the purpose has been revised on the recommendations finalised by the Group of Ministers on February 2,2000. Accordingly, action has been initiated to introduce the Bill in the Parliament.

5. Besides, the Centra! Vigilance Commission has been vested powers vide para 3(v) of Department of Personnel and Training Resolution No. 371/20/99-AVD.III dated 4th April, 1999 to exercise superintendence over the vigilance administration. The Commission has issued several instructions to reduce the scope of corruption such as creating **a** culture of honesty greater transparency in administration, electronics clearance system and Computerisation of banks, sensitising the public etc. The Central Vigilance Commission has also issued Special Chapters on vigilance management in public sector banks and public sector undertakings.

Elimination of Corruption

2378. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned Corruption harming country like militancy as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 5th January, 2000;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware that corruption in the country have reached at its peak and the various anti-corruption agencies set up by Government have totally failed to check this evil practice;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to take any further steps to eliminate corruption in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?